

Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Mark Howe on being recognized with the 2007 Distinguished Friend Award and thank him for his service, support and guidance to the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and Education Foundation. His numerous contributions to the GCISD have no doubt benefited many and it is an honor to represent him in the 24th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN JIM
SPEHAR OF GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to Jim Spehar, an outstanding community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado. For eight years he has served the City of Grand Junction as a distinguished and valued member of the City Council. Prior to that, Mr. Spehar served as a Mesa County Commissioner from 1991 to 1995.

Leadership and candor have been a hallmark of his legacy and he has employed both of these qualities in his city and county roles, as well as having served as president of the Colorado Municipal League. In addition, he excelled as the western Colorado representative for the Colorado Water Congress Board of Directors. He currently serves as the director of the Central Rockies office of the Sonoran Institute, where he assists cities in assessing the impact of growth on their communities.

Jim Spehar has always been about the betterment of communities and his decisions have always reflected that thought. Popularity was not his concern—reaching for the good of the populace has been at the heart of his actions. Never one to back down from controversy, Jim has led by example through thoughtful decision making with integrity and fairness. His leadership will be difficult to emulate, and the bar he has set will take extraordinary efforts by those who follow him.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge his contributions to the city of Grand Junction and Mesa County, as well as the entirety of the State of Colorado.

HONORING BOB HUDEK

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of a remarkable activist from Wisconsin—Bob Hudek of Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

Bob Hudek is retiring from Citizen Action of Wisconsin after serving 12 years at the helm of an organization that has become a national model for how to engage people in progressive politics. During that time he displayed the strong leadership skills necessary to build Citizen Action of Wisconsin into an effective, statewide organization. It is known throughout the State for its fabulous issue work and

serves as one of the best organizing models in Milwaukee.

Bob Hudek's passion for fairness and compassionate public policy spans a broad range of serious issues facing the people of Wisconsin. From education to health care to consumer protection, Bob's commitment to the community and promoting the principles of social justice is truly unbounded.

Bob Hudek served to continue Wisconsin's long history of progressive politics. He worked undauntedly to elect progressive legislators who shared his commitment to the Wisconsin ideal. His leadership furthered the progressive movement at the State and national levels and will have an impact that will reverberate for years to come.

With an unmatched generosity of spirit, Bob Hudek is able to bring together people and organizations with an array of viewpoints and help them to find common ground. This dedication to the issues he holds dear fostered the development of not only Citizen Action of Wisconsin but other organizations as well.

Thank you, Bob, for the years of service you have provided Citizen Action of Wisconsin, the progressive movement, and the people of Wisconsin.

DART CELEBRATES 50,000

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50,000th passenger to use the Commuter Express. This is a remarkable milestone for the city of Denton.

On Monday, May 7, 2007, the Denton County Transportation Authority transported its 50,000th Commuter Express passenger. The Commuter Express was launched in May of 2006 and works in conjunction with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to connect Denton, Lewisville, the DART North Carrollton Transit Center and the Dallas Central Business District.

The Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) was signed into law by the governor in 2001. On June 6, 2003, the North Central Texas Council of Governments presented the Regional Cooperation Award to the DCTA. The award is presented to local governments which promote cooperation to solve regional problems; which do not allow jurisdictional boundaries to be barriers to solutions; and which demonstrate that joint projects can provide better use of resources as well as quality service.

I would like to congratulate the Denton County Transportation Authority and the entire community of Denton County. I am proud to celebrate this occasion with them, and I look forward to working with them in the future as we make our transportation system even more efficient. The people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas are already benefiting from this service, and I know I can expect great things in the future from DART.

ON THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the historic holiday of Cinco de Mayo.

On May 5, 1862, Mexican forces led by General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla, just 100 miles from Mexico City. General Seguín led his brave troops to a spirited victory in spite of the fact that his forces had neither the manpower nor the equipment of their opponents. The Battle of Puebla was instrumental in preserving the right of the Mexican people to self-determination, as it helped prevent the French military from taking long-term control of sovereign Mexican territory.

The heroic actions of General Seguín and his courageous forces not only helped preserve the Mexican government, they also helped preserve the unity of the United States. Had France been able to extend its control over Mexican territory at the Battle of Puebla, France likely would have had sufficient resources and manpower to aid the Confederate States of America in their war against the United States. The tremendous fight put up by the Mexican troops at the Battle of Puebla ensured that such a worrisome scenario did not come to pass and provided President Lincoln with crucial support as the Civil War descended into chaos.

There can certainly be no questioning of the bravery, spirit and patriotism of the thousands of Mexican troops who fought and, all too frequently, gave their lives at the Battle of Puebla. I believe that, as we recognize the efforts and sacrifices of those troops, Cinco de Mayo provides us with a perfect opportunity to recognize the sacrifice for sovereignty, the importance of courage and, above all, the universal yearning for freedom.

The Mexican forces who won the Battle of Puebla should not and will not ever be forgotten. I commend those forces for their spirit and courage and I wish all those celebrating the holiday across Mexico and the United States a happy Cinco de Mayo.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's teachers and commemorate them for the infinite number of ways they make us a better nation by inspiring our children to think beyond the bounds of home, school and community.

Today is National Teacher Day and this is Teacher Appreciation Week. National Teacher Day, sponsored by the National Education Association, is a time for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives and to our communities.

While this year's theme for National Teacher Day is "Great Teachers Make Great Public Schools," all of us must also remember that great teachers make a better tomorrow for all